LETTERS - W

DRAWER

MEETING LINCOLN

71.2009.085.02201

Meeting Lincoln

Original letters describing encounters with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

W

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02201

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http://archive.org/details/meetinglincolnwlinc

Walker, Mrs. Virginia Washington, D.C. Cedarville, N.J.
Sat on lap

MRS. VIRGINIA C. WALKER
CEDARVILLE
NEW JERSEY

February 29 — 32.

Mr H. K. Terry.

Dear Sir,

I am afraid I cannot give you more information than the News-paper article contained, as I was a very little girl when the incident occurred. only 5 years old.

My father, Major William Cundiff, Heavy Artillery - of Phila. Penna, Volunteers,

was stationed at or near Soldiers Home, near Washington where Abraham Lincoln had his summer "White House home."

My brother-in-law had taken me to visit my father in Camp - and my father took me to see that wonderful Man, and while conversing with my father he took me on his knee, also had a glass of milk brought for me. I have

only a hazy recollection of it myself, but my parents spoke of it so often that it has helped me to remember —

I remember more clearly some of the Camp life there, although my stay was less than a week.

Several years ago while visiting in Auburn, New York, I met a man who had met Lincoln and remembered him well, I do not remember his name but could possibly find out through

my son - Rev. Rasper Walker -
Pastor of Euclid Ave Baptist
Church in Cleveland - who was
a member (I think Chaplain,
of the same organization as
-. I think it was "Sons of
Veterans" or something like that
- Jon are interested I will write
to my Son about it.

Yours very sincerely

Virginia C. Walker

Freeport, Ill.

Ward, Dr. Samuel R.

Washington and Gettysburg Address
Assassination

"I SAW LINCOLN"

Full Name Samuel Read Ward

Present Address Richmond, McHenry County, Ill.

Date of Birth Year 1847 Month August Day Seventh

Place of Birth Ceylon - East Indies

Where you saw Lincoln Washington D.C.

When you saw Lincoln Many times

Remarks:- Was present in the theatre when he was assassinated;
I lived in Washington four years, 1864 & '68
Received my medical degree there,
~~Georgetown~~ Medical Department ~~Georgetown~~
George town University.

Graduated University of Vermont in Burlington Vt.
in 1864.

TELLS OF SEEING LINCOLN

1931 Times Eagle

Chicago, Ill. April 12.—Sixty-six years ago, on the night of April 14 1865, a young man, a student in Georgetown university, made his way with a party of friends to Ford's theater in Washington.

He had met the President, and had heard him speak at Gettysburg, but had never seen Gen. Grant, and it was for this purpose that he was attending the theater, for it had been reported that Grant would be a guest in the presidential box. The young man did not see Gen. Grant after all, but he did hear the shot which fatally wounded Abraham Lincoln, and saw the assassin escape. Lincoln died the next day.

Now 83 years old, Dr. Samuel R. Ward of Richmond, in McHenry county, recalled yesterday the historic scene of Lincoln's assassination. He was 22 years old at the time, and employed in the registrars office of the treasury, studying medicine at night. Although he had seen a part of Miss Laura Keene's performance in "The American Cousin," he bought four tickets when Grant was to accompany the President and his wife that night.

Learn Grant Had Left

"We were most excited about seeing Gen. Grant," he said, "the four of us—my brother and his wife and a young lady. I've forgotten her name. When President and Mrs. Lincoln and Maj. Rathbone and a Miss Harris arrived, and we had understood Gen. Grant had gone to Philadelphia, it was a great disappointment.

"We were sitting in the dress circle, which was elevated above the main floor and extended in a semicircle around the auditorium. We had an unobstructed view of the Presidential box which was a double box in which they had removed the small partition so that the President and Mrs. Lincoln, sitting in the box farthest from the stage, were not separated from the rest of the party.

"The boxes were inclosed, and the occupants watched the play from two windows, one in either box. All I could see of the President, despite the fact that his box was on the same level as our seats, was one arm, resting on the sill of the box window.

Actors in Confusion

It was a very popular play and the theater was crowded with many of Washington's notables among the audience. The performance had been in progress about an hour, during which the audience applauded it frequently, when I heard a shot, I thought at first it might be a part of the performance. Then, glancing across, I saw Mrs. Lincoln standing up, wringing her hands.

"The actors disappeared in confusion and a few people stirred, half realizing that a tragedy had occurred. Then, while we all sit there, dazed, I saw a man, a bright shiny dagger in his hand, mount the sill of the window in the President's box and look about. At that moment Maj. Rathbone lunged forward to sieze him. The man struck out with his dagger and Maj. Rathbone went down. I learned later the man

Shot That Killed Lincoln Echoes in Doctor's Ears

4-15-1928

Retired Physician of Richmond, Ill., Tells of Tragic Event in Ford's Theater

Milwaukee

BY STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE JOURNAL.

Richmond, Ill. — A shot fired 63 years ago still echoes in the ears of Dr. Samuel Reid Ward. He sat almost opposite the box of President Lincoln in Ford's theater, Washington, the night of Apr. 14, 1865, when the Emancipator was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

Dr. Ward was 22 then. Soon he will be 86, but the passing of the years has not dimmed the memory of that night. In the study of his Richmond home Saturday night, on the anniversary of that tragic event, he described the assassination of Lincoln, and illustrated his story with a penciled diagram of Ford's theater on the back of an envelope.

While he studied at Georgetown university, Dr. Ward worked in the treasury department at Washington. He had seen Lincoln several times, but he had never seen Gen. Grant, so when he read in the morning paper that Gen. and Mrs. Grant would accompany the president and Mrs. Lincoln to the theater that night, he determined to go. Dr. Ward bought seats in the dress circle, as nearly opposite the president's box as he could get them. His brother, William, his brother's wife, and a young woman accompanied him to the theater.

Lincoln "Almost Hidden"

Gen. Grant did not appear. The president was accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln, Maj. Rathbone, and a Miss Lewis, daughter of a supreme court justice.

"The boxes were merely continuations of the dress circle where we were sitting," explained Dr. Ward, drawing the circle and the stage and the boxes to show where he sat in relation to the president's box. "The circle and the boxes were about 12 feet above the main floor. President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln were in the second box from the stage and Maj. Rathbone and Miss Lewis were in the first. The two boxes actually had been made one by the removal of doors or drapes.

"President Lincoln sat at a corner of the box, almost hidden by a flag which draped the side. Only his arm was visible, where it leaned on the rail. Mrs. Lincoln was plainly to be seen.

"Perhaps three-quarters of an hour of the play had passed when we heard a shot. I had never seen 'The American Cousin,' so at first I presumed it was part of the play, but in a moment I saw Mrs. Lincoln spring up, wringing her hands, and I said to my companions, 'Lincoln has been shot!'

Booth Waved Dagger

"The same thought had come to others. Everyone was on his feet in a moment and there was a clamor of voices following the hush which had fallen on the theater after the shot.

"I have been told that Booth had a fellow conspirator stationed back stage to turn out all the lights in the house at the sound of the shot, so the assassin could escape. The lights did not go out, and after a moment the assassin appeared at the front of the president's box with one foot upon the low rail and a glittering new dagger in his hand.

"He looked over the audience, waved the dagger, and shouted, 'Sic semper tyrannis.' Maj. Rathbone seized the assassin by the shoulder, but the man struck backward with his dagger and cut a long gash in the major's arm. Then he jumped for the stage. One foot landed on the stage, but he slipped into the orchestra pit and then pulled himself up on the stage. He ran diagonally across the empty stage to a door. I understand a horse awaited him in the alley at the rear.

Carry Lincoln Out

"I spied a friend, Charles Prentice, on the main floor and attracted his attention. I shouted that I would join him at once. My brother and his wife undertook to see my young lady companion to her home, and I left them.

"At the top of the stairs, a man said to me, 'That assassin is J. Wilkes Booth. I have known him a long time and I am sure it is he!' I hastened downstairs and joined Prentice. We went up on the stage and watched the audience. We could see into the president's box.

Six young men carried him out of the theater and across Fourteenth st. to the second floor of a building. I knew two of the young men. The actors and actresses were about and I heard wild reports that Secretary Seward had been killed and that Gen. Grant had been assassinated on his way to Philadelphia.

"The theater soon emptied after the president had been taken away. We walked down Pennsylvania av. Everyone on the street and in the hotels was talking about the assassination. We saw several fist fights which arose due to misunderstanding of remarks. Prentice and I decided to do no talking except between ourselves.

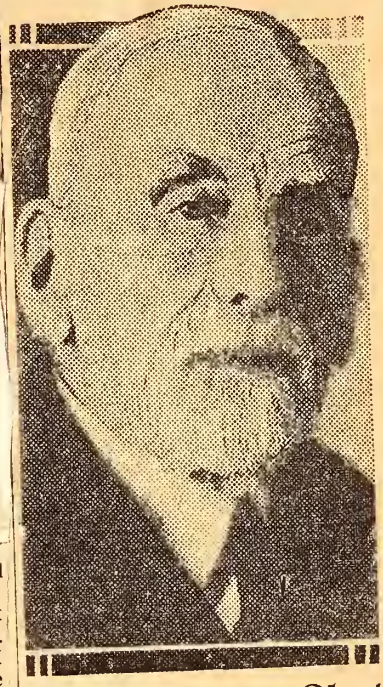
"The street in front of the building where Lincoln lay had been cleared and was patrolled by police, but at the corners crowds had assembled. Occasionally a policeman would walk to the corner and give the latest news on Mr. Lincoln's condition

Heard Shot for Weeks

"Finally, Prentice and I decided to go home. It was early in the morning. I had to pass Secretary Chase's home to get to my room. Soldiers were guarding it. The next day I saw soldiers guarding the homes of other cabinet officers.

"As I was falling asleep that night I heard again that shot in Lincoln's box and I heard it every night for nearly three weeks. Nothing ever left so deep an impression on my mind."

Dr. Ward now is retired. He was born in Ceylon, India, the son of a missionary physician, but was brought to this country at the age of 4. He lived in Montpelier, Vt., and was graduated from the University of Vermont. After studying at Georgetown he worked in a St. Louis hospital and then went to Chicago. He was in Chicago during the big fire in 1871. He was married shortly before the fire, later coming here. He has three daughters, Elizabeth, who lives at his home; Mrs. Thane M. Blackman, wife of a Whitewater (Wis.) banker, and another in Glencoe, Ill. His grandson, Thane Blackman, jr., is employed in a Milwaukee bank.



Remembers Shot

Dr. Samuel Reid Ward, 85, a retired physician of Richmond, Ill., sat opposite President Lincoln's box in Ford's theater the night of Apr. 14, 1865, when Lincoln was assassinated by J. Wilkes Booth. The occurrences of that night are still vivid in Dr. Ward's memory.

Washburn, Mrs. Elizabeth

L.-D. Debates
Freeport, Ill.

Chicago, Ill.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LOG CABIN ASSOCIATION

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May 24th 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,

Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Terry.

I have just heard of a name. I am sure this person will interest you and her signature worth securing. Although she is very aged, I understand that she is well mentally and able to write her name clearly.

Mrs. Elizabeth Washburn, was eighteen years of age when Lincoln and Douglas engaged in their famous debate, and as I understand she was at Freeport, Illinois, where the fith debate took place and remembers Mr. Lincoln very distinctly. She is now a resident of the Methodist Episcopal Old Peoples' Home, located at 1415 Foster Avenue, Chicago. Her age is ninety-one, having been born in 1840.

I trust you received my letter containing a name of a very distinguished professor, who remembers Mr. Lincoln well, and he is also of extreme age. Perhaps you did not understand that I carry my book- The Journey from the Log Cabin to the White, and furnish them direct from my home, as many wish their copy autographed.

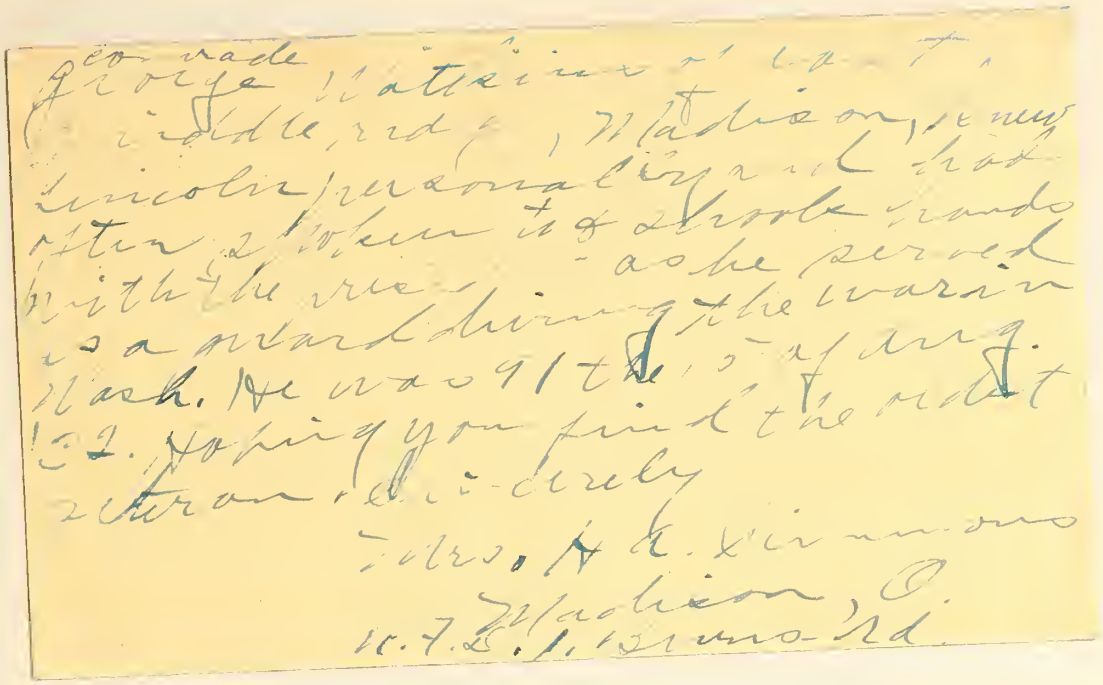
I hope you will be able to secure Mrs. Washburn's signature, at any rate, and also hope she will be able to write a short note.

Yours very truly.

Eleanor Gridley.

Madison, Ohio

Watkins, George



Watson, Hester

Pittsfield, Illinois,
October 24, 1932

Dr. Lewis A. Warren,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir;

I am almost seventy-eight years old. I remember Mr. Lincoln, very well. I am a daughter of Benj. A. Watson, who was one of Lincoln's best friends and lived near him in Springfield, Illinois.

I can't remember the first time I saw Mr. Lincoln, but I saw him repeatedly up to the time he went to Washington, when my father went with him.

I remember once when I was on the gate Mr. Lincoln came by and said he knew what I had for breakfast. Upon being questioned he said "Egg," to go in and have my mother wash my face and take off my bib.

It is needless to say I did as I was told.

yours very truly,
Hester Cape Watson.

Wayne,....

Decatur, Ill.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
DECATUR, ILLINOIS
MINNIE A. DILL, LIBRARIAN

December 9, 1931.

Mr. H. K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St.,
Bustleton,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Soon after I received your letter of November 11 I inserted a notice in the local papers regarding your request for names and addresses of people who remember Abraham Lincoln with the following result to date:

Persons living in Decatur--

Mr. W. J. Wayne, 424 E. Waggoner St.
Mrs. Mary Jane Taylor, 940 N. Oakland Ave.
Mr. Henry A. Wood, 916 E. Lincoln Ave.
Mr. John W. Knowlton, 345 N. 18th St.
Mr. William H. Tozer, 983 View St.
Mr. B. W. Dillehunt, 609 W. William St.
Mrs. C. C. Morris, 429 Peoria Ave.
Mr. C. A. Constant, 2325 E. Eldorado St.
Mr. D. A. Good, Route 1.

Persons living in nearby towns or who once lived here --

Mr. William Spangler, Rural Route, Maroa, Illinois
Mr. James W. Berry, Dalton City, Illinois
Dr. J. B. Matthew, Blue Mound, Illinois
Judge W. G. Cochran, Sullivan, Illinois
Mr. W. N. Lanham, 435 Delaware Road, Burbank, Calif.

I am enclosing any letters or statements sent. Those who have written would probably send you more information if you write them. Those who talked to me personally or telephoned I told would hear from you direct, as I was not taking the story only sending you the names.

Hoping this will be of some use to you, I am

Very truly ypurs,

Minnie A. Dill

Librarian.

Sunday
Nov. 22, 1931

Library Finds 3 Who Knew Lincoln

Miss Dill Gets Quick Response to Inquiries.

Three residents of Decatur and vicinity talked with Abraham Lincoln or had some contact with him, it is revealed in letters to Miss Minnie Dill, librarian of the Decatur public library.

The letters came in response to a request published by Miss Dill who is seeking the information for H. K. Terry of Bustleton, Pa.

W. J. Wayne, 424 East Waggoner street, is one of the men who has an incident to relate about a personal experience with Lincoln. Mrs. Mary Jane Taylor, 94, of 940 North Ookland, also has some information to contribute. William Spangler of Maroa saw Lincoln when he was a boy.

A fourth who knew Lincoln is W. N. Lanham of Burban, Cal., formerly of Decatur.

Miss Dill is seeking others who knew the Civil war President and has requested that such persons communicate with her.

Ward, Joseph R. C.
EUGENE V. SAVIN, Adjutant
243 Hansberry Street

Washington
Jos. R. C. WARD, Commander
1214 S. 60th Street

Phila., Pa.
JAMES J. QUIGLEY, Quartermaster
1342 Ridge Avenue

POST 2

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
667 N. TWELFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA

July 8 1930

Mr. Howard K. Terry
9528 Wisteria Street Bustleton Pa.

My dear young Friend::

I am in receipt of your letter of June 30th. asking me to give you some of my experience in the Civil war, and if I ever saw President Lincoln.

I cheerfully respond, glad to accommodate one whom I believe is a good Patriotic and loyal Citizen. anxious to know better the history of that great struggle that nearly disrupted our country. during 1861--65.

I enclose you a brief outline of my personal service that I think will comply with one part of your request and confine myself to tell you when I saw President Lincoln.

Our Regiment left for Washington in the early part of September 1861. and while waiting in Washington for orders where we were to camp for the winter, I stole off and made my way to the White House, as it was the first time I had been in Washington, in those days Pennsylvania Avenue was nothing but a dirt road, and from some recent rains it was then worse than that, it was a mud road Arriving at the White House I was too timid to attempt to try to get in but just roamed around, presently I saw the large door open and out came President Lincoln, keonly walked to another door and went in. I rushed back to the regiment, fearing it might move away and I would be lost. and anxious to tell the boys I had seen the President.

The next time I saw Mr. Lincoln was in July 1862, just after our retreat from Richmond after fighting the Seven Days Battles, He came down there at Harrison's Landing where we were encamped, and rode through the camps with General M'Clellan, and the boys cheered him as he rode by.

The next time was in May 1863 just after our defeat at Chancellorsville, and the men were much demorialized over our defeat, and bad managemebt of that battle, and I suppose he came down to cheer us up, and a grand review was ordered, and he sat on a large horse by the side of General Hooker as we passed by,

In 1864 General Grant was appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the armies of the United States, and realizing that a large force of men were held in the fortifications of Washington and he needed them, he issued an order that all Regiments having only Thirty days , or less to serve should be sent back from the front and those new men sent to the front and do some of the fighting,

That you may know the difference in the strenghth of those regiments and ours, one of the was assigned to our Brigade, I think it was the 150th New York, an heavy artillery regiment, they had about 1500, men and when they formed in our rear at the battle of Cold Harbor Va. and their line was longer than our whole Brigade of four regiments, each end extending beyond the ends of our Brigade, They lost very heavily in the battle over three hundred men, the got got caught in a swampty ground and took them some time to get out,

So in July 1864 our regiment was relieved at the front and sent back to Washington and assigned to DeRussy'S Corps, but only about 100 men left, I was then serving on the staff of General John Gibbon Commanding our Division, the Second Division of the Second Corps, General Hancock's Corps. I went to the General and asked to be relieved that I might go with my regiment, he expressed regret that I should go, and promised me further promotion if I would stay, but declined, and said I wanted ti go home, My father was dead and my mother needed me, I was on guard one day as Corporal of the guard and as usual when we were relieved the next morning we were at liberty or on leave of absence that day until Dress Parade at evening.

EUGENE V. SAVIN, Adjutant
243 Hansberry Street

JOS. R. C. WARD, Commander
1214 S. 60th Street

JAMES J. QUIGLEY, Quartermaster
1342 Ridge Avenue

POST 2

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
667 N. TWELFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA

So I got a pass and went into Washington, as I reached Pennsylvania Avenue I I heard some musick, and looking up saw some troops approaching me, I waited to see what it was, and found it was one of those short time regiments whose term of service expired and they were going home, they had never been outsid of Washington, never saw a Rebel except as prisoners, never fired a gun at th enemy, but they could not go home without having the President thank them for their valuable service, so I thought I would go along, and see the President again, Ariving at the White House they were massed in front of the front entrance, I worked my way up front and got near the railing, on the rotunder, Shortly the large doors opened and out came Mr. Lincoln, he stepped close to the railing, and taking off his hat (that same high silk hat that I do not think was ever brushed sine it left the hatters) and he addressed those men first apoligizing for keeping them waiting,and said he had been up all night attending to important business, and had just laid down and fell asleep, but band awoke him and when informed that those men wanted to see him and hear h him , he hastily dressed himself and came down, he had not taken time to brush his hairand there it was all ruffled up ends pointing in every directio and in pulling on his boots he had failed to pull down the pants on one leg and there it was held up by theleg of the boot, and there he stood with his hair uncombed and one leg of his pants held up by the boot.

And the last time I saw him was in 1865 after his assaignation and he la lay in state in our Independence Hall, I stood in that line over two hours before I reached the State house and passed up the steps and in through the window into the room where his body lay, and the next day I paraded with the National Guards escorting his remains through the city to the train that was to takehim west for final burrial.

I am one of those who greatly admire Mr. Lincoln, I have prepared an add ressewhich I have deliverd many times,ready at all times to pay my tribute to that great and good man.

I trust this will comply with your request and add the views of another veteran to those you have on file

Very respectfully yours

Joseph R,C,Ward
B rigadier General Retired
And now Past Commander of Post 2 G.A,R,

COL. JOS. R. C. WARD
1804 WALLACE ST.
PHILADELPHIA

DOWN THE PECOS

BATTLE OF ANTIETAM
ILLUSTRATED WITH 80 FINE PICTURES

EXPERIENCES AND INCIDENTS OF ARMY LIFE

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG
ILLUSTRATED WITH 120 FINE PICTURES

MEADE—STONEWALL OF GETTYSBURG

FROM WASHINGTON TO RICHMOND
ILLUSTRATED WITH 100 FINE PICTURES

REMOVED TO
5717 GIRARD AVE.

Services of General Joseph R.C.Ward

Two years on the frontiers of New Mexico and Texas during 1859-- 1860-- 1861

In State of Texas when that State seceded from the Union 1861 When all United States Troops were ordered to leave the State. Was then stationed at Fort Clarke , marched down to Indianola and took transport to New York March 1861

Entered the service of the United States for the War of the Rebellion as a Musician of Company I 106th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, then known as the Fifth California Regiment of General E.D.Baker's Brigade of California Troops, when General Baker was killed in our First Battle Balls Bluff, Pennsylvania claimed us and we became the Second Brigade 2nd Division 2nd Army Corps, and known as the Philadelphia Brigade throughout the War. Entering the service on August 24 1861, Detailed to serve as mounted orderly at the Headquarters 2nd Division 2nd Corps April 15 1864 Wounded slightly in the right shoulder at the Battle of Spottsylvania Court House on May 12 1864, Promoted to Corporal and appointed Chief of Orderlies at those Headquarters on June 16 1864, by order of Major General John Gibbon commanding Division. Mustered out in Philadelphia on Septembe 10th 1864 by expiration of term of service. Appointed Paymaster's Stewar United States Navy but not mustered, Served on Receiving Ship at the Philadelphia Navy Yard,

Re-entered the service as a Private in Company C Gray Reserves Regiment in Philadelphia April 10th 1865. 2nd Lieutenant Company K 7th Regiment National Guards of Pennsylvania, September 27th 1869, First Lieutenant and Adjutant 8th Regiment N.G.P. May 25th 1870, Colonel 13th Regiment N.G.P. July 19 1871, Mustered out September 10 1873, Major and Assisstant Adjutant General 5th Brigade National Guards of Pennsylvania (First Division)September 13th 1873. Honorably discharged May 12th 1874, Captain Company C 20th Regiment Veteran Volunteers National Guards of Pennsylvania for the Railroad Riots of 1877 on July 26th 1877, Served in Pittsburg, Scranton, and Wilkesbarre, Mustered out September 21st 1877 Placed on Retired Roll as Colonel. Promoted to Brigadier General December 18th 1912 Retired as Brigadier General.

The 106th Regiment Volunteer Infantry was organized at Philadelphia from August 14th to October 31st 1861, Served in the Third (Baker's)

Brigade , 6th (Stone's)Division , Corps of Observation at Poolesville Maryland , until February 1862, Then temporally attached to Bank's Division, Army of the Potomac until March 1862 then became the 2nd, Brigade (Philadelphia Brigade) 2nd Division 2nd Corps Army of the Potomac until July 31st 1864 then assigned to De'Russey's Division 22nd Corps in the defence of Washington, until August 28th 1864 sent to Philadelphia to be mustered out of the service.

GEN. J. R. C. WARD IS 85

Former Girard College Military Instructor Host at Dinner

Brigadier General Joseph R. C. Ward, instructor in military tactics at Girard College for many years, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday last night by being host at a dinner at the Hotel Walton.

General Ward, who is a dentist, is commander of Post No. 2, G. A. R., having gained his Civil War experience as a drummer boy. He served in the Spanish-American War and was active in the World War, despite his advanced age, serving in the Quartermaster Department.

Among those attending the dinner were: Colonel William C. Metcalf, commander of the Old Guard, City of Philadelphia; Captain George S. Davis, Lieutenant Colonel John D. Garcia, Major Edmund John Prittie and Lieutenant Cloyd R. Lewis, all of the State Fencibles; Professor L. Ashley Faught, of Temple University, and Colonel P. D. Landon, head of the Bordentown Military Academy.

Weaver, Spencer C. Washington, D.C.

March 16, 1931

Howard K Jerry
9528 Westena St.
Bustleton, Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir:

We received your letter to my grandfather, Mr Spencer C. Weaver, just a few days after his death on Feb 20th.

Grandpa, saw Mr Lincoln several times One incidence I remember hearing him tell several times:

One rainy night while the Company was stationed in Washington DC; Grandpa and some of his comrades were standing guard. Mr Lincoln came out of the

white house and asked them to come in out of the rain. Some of the aides started to take them into the servants quarters. When Mr Lincoln ~~said~~ saw what they were doing he said "No, I won't have any of my boys taken into the servants quarters. Bring them in here with me" He talked to them all a long while and before doing shook hands with them and Grandpa often made mention of his powerful grip.

No doubt had he been living he would have told you more.

Weaver, W. Jay | Chicago, Ill. Funeral | Rose Lawn, Ind.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to
REC'D SEP 1 1932
Answered 2

Rose Lawn Ind Aug 30 32

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft Wayne Ind

Dear Sirs your Request for the oldest Person who knew Abraham Lincoln am answering I may not be the oldest but I am getting there

I was Born Feb 12th 1859 making me 73 last Feb I saw Lincoln as he lie in state in the Court house in Chicago Ill. My uncle carried me through on the shoulder of the right we went up on a raised platform where the casket stood two large American Flags were Draped immediately in front of the casket the casket was Draped with an American flag and the Lord Knows was Loved

with american flags Three men in
Soldier at Each end of the
Casket standing at attention
and I will say I was Born on
Lincolns Birthday Cast my first
Vote for James A Garfield and
Wm McKinley Died on my Fourteenth
Wedding Anniversary the Three
Martyred Presidents

Yours truly
W Jay Weber
Rose Lawn
Ind

Werner, Ernest — Cincinnati enroute to Washington — Lakewood, Ohio

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name (Rev.) Ernest Werner

Present Address Pensacola, Florida, R.R. 3. Box 215

Date of Birth Year 1853 Month February Day 25th

Place of Birth Cincinnati, Ohio

Where you saw Lincoln At Cincinnati, O.

When you saw Lincoln 1863 on his tour through the north

Remarks: Lincoln was making a tour through the North & was cheered very ~~heartily~~ by the people. When just opposite of us, (our family) at 503 Vine street (old number) Lincoln stood up in the open carriage and bowed to us, waving his right hand, in the left holding his silk hat.

Werner, Ernest
Cincinnati - 2nd Campaign

No. 9. 1026.

Lakewood, O. Sept. 2/32

To Editor of "The Lakewood Post."

Dear sir,

In your issue of "Lakewood Post" of August 26th, you announce under the caption "See K Those who knew Abe Lincoln," that you desire to know of any of your readers who heard, saw or knew Abraham Lincoln.

In answer to this I desire to inform you that I "saw" Abraham Lincoln as he rode by my fathers store in a great parade, in Cincinnati, Ohio, it is as he rode by: the occasion being in this second campaign as the nominee for president of the United States, in 1860 it was.

Possibly I am not the oldest person that saw him on that occasion but one that did see him. Born February 23-th, 1853, in Cincinnati, O.

I am visiting now with my nephew & family Harry E. Werner, 1507 Woodward Avenue.

I expect to be with Mr Carl Langebrake
South Euclid
(Address 1647 Oakmount Road, Cleveland, O.
for a few days.
My address (Sept 5th - 12th will be, Spencerville,
Ohio. 425 Broadway.
Possibly this will interest you, as an
answer to your request.

I beg to remain
Yours respectfully
Ernest Werner.

(Home address.
Rev. Ernest Werner
Pensacola, Florida.
R.F.D. 3. Box 215.)

Werner, Ernest

No. 9. 1061.

Spencerville, O. Sept. 14th, 1932

Mr. Louis A Warren,
Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir; Just received your letter of 12th inst. together with enclosures. I thank you very much for the Lincoln items.

I enclose herewith the blank filled out "I saw Lincoln"; and thank you, if you will place my name in your special file of reminiscences.

With thanks.

Sincerely yours

Ernest Werner

P.S. The address given is my permanent address.

EW

Werner, Ernest

Lakewood, Ohio

THE LAKEWOOD POST
AND WEST SHORE POST
14812 DETROIT AVENUE

BOulevard 1706

LAKEWOOD, OHIO

Sept 8 1932

Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir;-

Enclosed you will find an article which was published some weeks ago in the Lakewood Post, Lakewood, Ohio.

I am also enclosing the letters which I received in response to the article.

I would appreciate your publicity agent writing both Lee R. Lucas (c/o Mrs. J. Ruppiesburg,)1421 Larchmont Ave. and Ernest Werner (c/o Harry E. Werner, 1507 Woodward Ave.) both addresses are in Lakewood.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Very truly yours,

O. F. Schee Jr
Editor.

OFS/SK

Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.
Fort Wayne - Indiana:
Dear Sirs: —

I would appreciate having my name placed among those having saw Lincoln.

I had the privelege of hearing and seeing Lincoln at the Lincoln-Douglas Debate held in Ottawa Illinois in 1858. I am a resident of La Salle, Illinois and am 80 years of age

Mrs. Mary A. West
1324 La Salle St.,
La Salle, Illinois.

OCT 7 1932

~~Wetherbee~~, Wilfred A. Wetherbee Washington - Soldier Philadelphia, Pa.

ALVIN C. HOWES
Department Commander

WALDO TURNER
Senior Vice-Commander

EDWIN H. LINCOLN
Junior Vice-Commander

WILFRED A. WETHERBEE
Assistant Adjutant-General

EDWIN F. MORRILL
Assistant Quartermaster-General

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS,
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

State House, Boston.

Sept 29. 1930

Mr. Howard K. Perry
Philadelphia, Penna

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of Sept 24 I will say that if you will write to Captain Robert C. Bunge, Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, Ohio, I think he can give you the address Charles E. Bull.

One of the pleasant memories of my life is the fact that I was privileged to come in personal contact with President Lincoln. In 1864 when my regiment was in Washington on its way home, we marched up to the White House Grounds, forming in line in front of the balcony. President Lincoln spoke to us, and then came down the steps and shook the hands of the comrades. As he grasped my hand, I was 16 years old, he laid his other hand on my shoulder

and remarked. "Well, my boy, I guess your mother will be glad to see you."
His kindly smile and his words will never be forgotten.
Would that we had more men of his make-up in the world today.

Very truly yours
Wilfred A Wetherbee

Army of the James
WHARFF, WILLIAM H. Washington BERKELEY, CALIF.

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP

WE SAW - HEARD - MET - OR KNEW LINCOLN

President
WM. H. WHARFF
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Vice President
DVID EDOUARD PETTIS
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Chaplain
REV. HENRY HERBERT SMYTHE
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Executive Secretary
ARTHUR HARRIS SMYTHE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1334 SPRUCE STREET

2000 Delaware St. BERKELEY, CALIF. May 28 1931. 193

Mr. Louis A. Warren
Editor of Lincoln Lore,
Fort Wayne Indianna

Dear Mr. Warren:-

You very kindly sent to me in April a copy of L Lincoln Lore.

I was much interested in it and have delayed ~~re~~ reply until now. owing to matters of importance that required my attention.

On Sept. 23 I pass my 95 birthday and am blessed with excellent health.

I was born in Guilford state of Maine, on Sept. 23 during the adminictration of Andrew Jackson.(Old Hickory) in 1836. I knew very many revolutionary soldiers in my boyhood. My grandfather Isaac B. Wharff was born on Augs 23 1789 at the beginning of our nation.

I served in Company C. in the 11th. Maine In fty, while my brother John served three years in the first Maine cavalry. I saw president Lincoln on March 26 when h and general Grant reviewed the army of the James, Civil War

This was Sunday . In one week April 2 Peters— burg was captured and Richmond was evacuated . But one week later , Sunday the 9 th. Lee surrendered .

My brother and I were present ,and in desparate fighting met the white flag of truce,

It will please me to receive Lincoln Lore.

Very truly yours .

Wm. H. Wharff

William H. Wharff
President Abraham Lincoln Fellowship.

Wharff, Wm. H. James River, near Richmond San Francisco, Calif.
soldier

WARD S. JACKSON, MANAGER C. L. KING, ASST. MANAGER

ORGANIZED 1822

THE NORTH RIVER INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK

ISSUED THROUGH THE

NORTH RIVER UNDERWRITERS AGENCY

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

PACIFIC DEPARTMENT
266 BUSH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Wm. H. WHARFF, Retired Architect
Insurance Agent
2000 DELAWARE STREET
Phone AShberry 8992 Berkeley, California July 5 I93I.

Mr Howard K. Terry
Philadelpha Pa.

Dear Sir:-,

Yours of June 29 is at hand and as you are working on the same lines as that of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship of which I have the hpnor to be the president, I am pleased to comply with your request.

Soon after the outbreak of the civil war my brother John enlisted and served 3 years in the First Maine Cavalry. My service some later was in the IIth. Maine infantry. Third brigade , First Div. 24th Corps .

In the winter of 64 &5 we were oncampt at Chapins farm north of the James river in front of Richmond.

On Sunday morning March 26 we were drawn up in line and was reviewed by president Lincoln and members of his cabinate and Gen. Grant and staff.

As soon as we returned to our tent I wrote in my diary which I kept during my service the following.

This is a wonderful occasion and I shall nevr forget the care worn face of president Lincoln as he rod upon his horse , hat in hand while the bands were playing Hale To Rhe Chief.

On Nonday following we broke camp went on th spring campaign that ended the war in just two weeks.

I was present at Apponattox April 9th. and our regiment the IIth. Maine had seven killed and 45 wounded before the flag of truce was displayed .

I have no copies of the Chronicle of April I4 o or I5 but I will try to get some if possible .

Very truly yours .

Wm. H. Wharff

Wm.H.Wharff president
Abraham Lincoln Fellowship.

Whitaker, E. H.

Indianapolis, Ind.
Funeral

La Salle, Ill.

LaSalle, Ill, Oct. 5. 1932.

Mr. Louis A. Warren;
Ft. Wayne, Ind,
Dear Sir: Having seen a notice in a newspaper that you are searching for people who saw Abraham Lincoln will say I saw his body at Indianapolis, Ind, while it lay in state at the state house. It was a rainy day which did not deter the thousands who formed in line four abreast reaching far out into the street, waiting their turn. I was then a boy of fourteen years, I was not satisfied by passing through once so I passed through a second time.
I cannot give the exact date but it must have been the latter part of April and of course in 1865, and if remember aright was on a Sunday. My home was then at Acton, Ind.

E. H. Whitaker, 81 years.

No. 1.

Hon. Big Chief White Horse Eagle.
World's Famous Chief. + lecturer on Indian
Culture and Peace,
304 West Avenue 37,
Los Angeles, California.

July 6, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St. Bustleton, Pa., Penn.

My dear friend and brother,

It was a great pleasure for me to receive a letter from a friend of my old friend, Col. Kimball whom I have made Chief.

You are doing a wonderful work in preserving history.

I am now the oldest and leading Chief of the American Indians having been born in 1822 on Looking Glass Creek, Colorado, and the greatest living authority on the culture of the American Indians. I have lived during the life of every President since the first Pres. Adams and personally met all Presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Mr. Coolidge. We were in Europe when Pres. Hoover was inaugurated.

I am of the Osage Tribe and my

When you write him mention my name and you will be sure to get a answer Thanks Have left the Home

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World's Famous Chief. + lecturer on Indian
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I am of the Osage Tribe and my

father being a No 2. leading Chief I crossed country with him on horseback most a century ago and from that time on I have played an important part in the history of my country between my people and the pale faces who came in to set up a nation in my country. I have made landmarks in the nation's history having buried the tomahawk for Peace under the Capitol Steps at Washington in 1876. Greatest peace pact ever made. Since then I have been most loyal to the Stars and stripes. Have come in contact with the great men of several generations. I used to take my Chiefs with me when visiting Lincoln. Lincoln told me I would become a great Chief and leader of my people. I held Pres. Lincoln in the greatest reverence and high regard and if his life had been spared the history of my people would have been different.

I used to pass his old cabin and his step mother gave me and my Chiefs hot coffee when we passed by on horseback. I knew Lincoln when he was a young lawyer. I have met Gen. Grant, Gen. Lee, Phil Sheridan, Stonewall Jackson

No 3.

Hon. Big Chief White Horse Eagle.
World's Famous Chief.

Jeff Davis. I was scout under Mayor Gen. Nelson A. Miles, Crook and Sheridan.

I would like a copy of the picture you saw in the paper of Col. Kinbar and myself for my memory book.

I have written a book "We Indians" that gives much interesting history.

I am making an International Tribal Association by conferring honorary Chieftood upon the leading men of all nations and individuals who are doing something to preserve the history of our country.

I would like to make you a brother Chief with Col. Kinball. Should I come over to Penn. to lecture or you pay a visit to California while I am in residence here.

A little later I go north on a lecture tour, also make some

notable men Chiefs and pay my respects to our Governor Rolph, whom I made Chief 1705=ITE-(G

This will still be my address 304 W. Ave. 37, Los Angeles until further notice.

With greetings and God bless you, I am.

Hon. Big Chief White Horse Eagle
World Famous Chief and Queen WI-THE-A.

White Horse Eagle, Big Chief California

John A. Martin Post No. 153, G. A. R.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA

Soldiers' Home California, June 12 1931

H. R Terry Dear Sir
Your letter of 13th must read
Capt Hardath are very sick in
the Hospital, his P.O. box is 124
The Indian name and address are
Big Chief White Horse Eagle
No 3.0.H. West ave. 37. Los Angles
Calf - I am sheer that you will
Get a fine letter from him he has
the pipe of peace that is smoked
with Lincoln and every President
down to Coolidge, I Knew him
about fifty years ago and never
Saw him again until last month
when we took a ride in the Park
when you write him mention my
name and you will be sure
to get a answer thank you
Have left the Home

Could not know his
address

yours very truly
Lieut A. L. Kimball

Widney, John A. L.-D. Debates Galesburg, Ill. Alpha, Ill.

J. A. WIDNEY

SECRETARY 112TH ILLINOIS REUNION ASSOCIATION

- INSURANCE -

ALPHA, ILLINOIS Sept 4th 1931

Mr. Edward C. Perry.

Dr Sir

Just rec'd your
lett. I was born March 27th 1846 at Spring Run
Pa. Will be 85 next March. I started first Bank
in this place 44 yrs ago. Have been Bank cashier
several years. I shook hands with Lincoln on Oct.
18th 1858 at Galesburg Ills in his debate with
Douglas. I shook hands with Mrs Lincoln in
Washington D.C. on Jan 26th 1864 while a civil War
veteran. I enlisted in April 1862 Served 3 yrs in
a Henry County Reg. Band as Drum Major of this Regt
and started the only Band here. I guess this is all
you need. Am sure glad.

Yours &c

John A. Widney

My father was a Col during
the Mexican War in 1846

My Regt was 112th Ills Inf.

Williams, Jacob | Springfield, Ill. Lived near | Springfield, Ill.

Springfield Ill April 11 1931

Dear Sir you asked me for a histo
of abraham Lincoln I new him since I
a little Boy Lincoln Thom he Use to hunted
For present he was Playing hand Ball back
of John Connels Store ther was hand Ball
alley and he got the telegrph Message
that he was Nominated for President I will
Finish this Some time and Go to my office I told
he said I moved him all my life time to
Many Things I could tell you he was very
Fond of Children I knew Some time he
Many time play ... Marbles and The
Lincoln Pen Knife + Many time Setting on C...
Smith corner Whittling With his knife on
the Edge of dry Goods Box My Mother +
Father told them Vagits Every Morning For to
Go near Lincoln Every day I Must be Very
Polite Hartid Man Well I am a Poor Writer
I never Went to School a Much in My life
Come Home From the Civil War a Crippled Man
Bin all My life Since & the War
I Get a donation Since me Everyone must While
Lives Excuse Poor Writing

Our

Scott Williams
408 West Monroe St—

your most Excellent Healing
& Red Spring water sent to a
sufferer in my life

Williamson, M. W. Springfield, Ill. Galesburg, Ill.
Burial

FIRST GALESBURG NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

CAPITAL & SURPLUS $ 850,000.00

OMER N. CUSTER, PRESIDENT
S. NIRDLINGER, VICE PRES.
H. HUGGINS, VICE PRES. & TRUST OFFICER
M. O. WILLIAMSON, VICE PRES.

GALESBURG, ILL.

C. H. BROWN, CASHIER
H. A. ANDERSON, ASSISTANT CASHIER
M. F. CLINE, ASSISTANT CASHIER
H. E. HANLON, ASSISTANT CASHIER

September 2, 1931.

Mr. Edward K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St.,
Bustleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of August 1st received in due time. I note that you are seeking facts pertaining to the incident of the laying away the last time of the remains of President Lincoln which occurred September 26, 1901.

Those present were: John J. Brenholt, acting governor (in the absence from the state of Governor Yates); M. O. Williamson, State Treasurer; Joseph Freeman, acting Superintendent of Public Instruction; James S. McCullough, Auditor of Public Accounts; B. D. Monroe, Assistant Attorney General; James S. Culver, contractor; Floyd K. Whittemore, Assistant State Treasurer; Geo. N. Black, Assistant Attorney General; Clinton L. Ewing; Joseph Lindley, railroad and warehouse commissioner; Edward Johnson, custodian of the monument; Mrs. Edward Johnson; Mrs. Alfred Bayliss; Ross Culver; Jasper N. Reece; Fleetwood H. Lindley; J. C. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction; Leon P. Hopkins, master plumber; Charles Wiley, assistant plumber.

The commission consisted of the Governor, State Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Governor, Mr. Yates, and Alfred Bayliss, Superintendent of Public Instruction, were absent from the state.

It was agreed by the commission that they would meet at the monument at 8:00 A. M. on the 26th of September, 1901, and at the request of Robert Lincoln, the President's son, we would have as little publicity as possible. To our great surprise when we came to the monument at the appointed time, we found awaiting us nearly a dozen reporters. Having promised Robert Lincoln, the son, to have as little publicity as possible, we refused admittance to all except those herein mentioned.

FIRST GALESBURG NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

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M. F. CLINE, ASSISTANT CASHIER
H. E. HANLON, ASSISTANT CASHIER

The remains of the President were enclosed in a lead casket and that was enclosed in a red cedar casket. The lead casket was opened by Leon P. Hopkins, the plumber, and those present viewed the remains, after which the lead casket was sealed. The remains were in perfect condition, no signs of decomposition. There was a small spot on the necktie and on the lapel of the coat that looked like mildew.

The committee made a certificate of the above facts which was duly filed. The remains were then placed in a concrete block eight feet square several feet under the floor of the monument.

I have marked with an X those who have passed away. If there are any others, I do not know it.

When you have selected out what you want to use, send me a copy and I will see if there are any corrections to be made.

Very truly yours,

M O Williamson

Wilson, Isac

Carthage, Illl
courthouse yard

Carthage, Ill.

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name Isaac Wilson

Present Address 304 N. Green Carthage Ill

Date of Birth Year 1835 Month Oct Day 14

Place of Birth Chester County Pa.

Where you saw Lincoln In Carthage Ill Hancock County.

When you saw Lincoln Oct 22 1858.

Remarks: - Nice day very large Crowd, given in Court house yard I stoop up in front of him heard wonderful talk.

Carthage, Illinois.

Dear sir.
In answer to youd inquiry We of this town wish to present the name of Isac Wilson, who Will be 97 in October. He lived near in the country and came up to see the parades. On Oct. 22 I858 he heard Lincoln speak on the lawn of Court house.

June Clark.

Wilson, Mr. S. E. | Brochton, N.Y. on platform of train | Mt. Gileand, Ohio

THE SENTINEL PUBLISHING COMPANY

PRODUCERS OF DISTINCTIVE COMMERCIAL PRINTING

BLANKS, OFFICE SUPPLIES, ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES

NORTH PUBLIC SQUARE
MT. GILEAD, OHIO

August 27, 1932.

LINCOLN NATIONAL
RECD. AUG 29 1932
Answered
LIFE INSURANCE

The Lincoln National
Life Foundation,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Gentltmen:

Mr. S. E. Wilson, who will be 78 years of age in October, of Mt. Gilead, O., saw Abraham Lincoln in 1861 at Brocton, N. Y. The latter was on his way to Washington. When the train stopped at Brocton, Lincoln came out on the rear platform . while cannons were fired in his honor.

Mr. Wilson, then only a lad of six, remembers standing close enough to the platform to touch Mr. Lincoln.

If further information is desired address S. E. Wilson, N. Main St., Mt. Gilead.

Very truly,

The Morrow County Sentinel.

By O. E. Smith

O. E. Smith, Sec'y

Decatur Illinois march 6th 1932

Mr Howard K. Jeffrey

Kind Sir

beg pardon in delay answering your good letter but Sickness prevented & will try tell you some things as far as I can remember
Mr Knowlton Sending my name and your return Envelope stamp
I will tell you the little Log court-house where President-Lincoln held court— has been moved to Fair View Park on high hill beautiful in Summer time boys Scouts claim it there home hold meetings there large picture of Lincoln as you go inside but-in hand Smiling as he used to when standing in door years ago. Several times hold meeting was in garden setting out flower plants when noise persons passing by almost— to Matter ah President Lincoln was shot- Gloom Sadness Every person Seemed crushed Soldiers Sailors Funeral was Grand flowers were many & beautiful didn't- try Get Near Cemetery some did Get- hurt but- Short-time Went- Go most Every year Wreath on Monument- Which is beautiful Guard Celine & Standing on Each Side but Sadness and you think here lies body Howard Old resident

Winegardner, Mary Decatur, Ill.

Decatur Illinois March 9th 1932

Mr Howard K. Tenney

Kind Sir

beg pardon in delay answering your good letter but Sickness prevented & will try tell you some things as far as I can remember
You Knowing Sending my name
and your return Envelope stamp
I will tell you the little Log court-house where President-Lincoln held court-
Has been moved to Fair View Park
on high hill beautiful in Summer time
boys & Girls claim it there home
hold meetings there large picture of
Lincoln as you go inside hall-in hand
Smiling as he used to when standing in
door years ago. Several times hold meeting
there but remember much Speaches made
when noise persons passing by almost-
losing & Stopped ask what-on Earth
is Matter oh President-Lincoln was
shot-Gloom Sadness Every person Seemed
to say terrible train for Springfield were
Crowded Soldiers Salutes Guard was Lined
Flowers were many & beautiful didn't stay
Set-Near Cemetery some did Set-hurt
but-Short-time went-Go most Every year
Wreath on Monument-Which is beautiful Guard
Relieve & Standing on Each Side but Sadness
and you think here lies body Honored President

Visited Lincoln home in Springfield Ever since will
Just- looks President- would Thare great- the
Visitors Great- May Every Thing in order
the last- birthday was wonderful Sight-
yet- Dark Comrades Year of Post- 141
st- There hall now in new armory last
M' prayer Singing commenced Each one had a
Hand to Say Honest- abe Honest loved
President this Past- was at one time over
thare- a strong at- Celebration only U-
was there wonder if this will interest or be
any thing to add-

Most Every one listens to true Story
about- Johnny picket tired on long
duty fell as Boy- aged mother in deepest-
Grief was advised to appeal President-
Lincoln- which She did ask what he could
do for her Save my Son. life he must- die
She listened said go home Good Mother your
Son wont- die will send your Son home to
you went- on her knees to thank him
and God with tears he took hand
your prayer, Saved your Son-
his kindness to many Still lives in many
hearts Comrades friend every Civil war
word kind Sir my trembling hands pour
willing ask you to Say as thank dose best-
She called Thank you for Kind letter hope
may be worth you can use in your
Collections

Mr Howard K Terry
Looking over my poorly
written letter and written on
both sides please pardon
all but your sweet letter
and dear Enclosed Kindness
Mr Knowlton
made Effort-
only wish Could have
written something would
Could
been ill- Just getting better
not very steady in my hands
but- Mistakes are many
but- feel you know I don't
best I Could
Wishing you Great Success
in your Undertaking Grand
Collection Honored President
Abe Lincoln Respectfully
Mary Wine Gardner
My age near 88 years

Wintersmith, R.L. Washington - Interview

Death notice of R L Wintersmith
Elbow Tenn Feb 28 1890

Born in Elbow 1816

"He had a personal acquaintance with President Lincoln who died at his father's store and when Honest Old Abe was elected to the presidency his commitment went on to see him at the White House where the old acquaintance was renewed and warm friendship established. In his letter you he delighted to tell what he knew about the Rail splitting incident

Wolfind, C. H. Went to Office Bath, N.Y.
Washington, D.C.

Bath N.Y. Feb 11-31

Mr Howard R. Terry
9525 Western St.
Philadelphia Pa

Dear Sir

In answer to
your letter will give
you the facts as I
remember them.
In 1863 I was a
Student at Fairfield
Herkimer Co N.Y.
and a number of us
boys there about 16
years old Wanted to
enlist. But we were turned
down. But we Wanted
to be Soldiers So
our Vacation in June
1863 time of the

13/

went to Washington D.C.
to See the President
We had Just little
trouble to be Taken to
his Office. We were
Detained and could not
get at Home We told
him our business the
Journal and Carriage
but Said We was too
Young and he hoped we
would Not be Detained
Told us we could do
more at Home
help there at the Front
than we could do there
Gave us all a good
Hand Shake and Just
our Carriage

Respectfully

D. F. Walsh
24

Woodring, Peter Freeport, Ill. Waterloo, Ia.

Waterloo Iowa
Apr. 18. 1931

Mr Howard K Perry =

My Dear Sir =

your letter recd an hour ago. And, as I have leisure, I will answer it, before it is laid aside. I suppose - you have a copy of "Freeports Lincoln" - The Memorial edition of a book, gotten out by the Freeport Lincoln Association - after the unveiling of the Statues of Lincoln Aug. 27-1929. If so - you have the names and addresses of all who attended those Ceremonies.

If you do not have this book, and will write me again, I will most gladly copy them, and mail same to you.

I will say further. That this book is Illustrated - and gives

full particulars with all the speeches of the occasion, and a copy was sent me – as one who heard the great Debate of Lincoln & Douglas. The book contains some 300 pages – and is published by W. J. Rawleigh, Freeport Ills.

My own recollections are that of a 14 year old boy – who – living 6 miles North of Freeport – and longed to "go a fishing" started early to fish in the Pecatonica River – at Freeport – but – when the bands began to play – and I had heard about this Wonderful debate that was to take place – I threw away my Willow pole – wound up my line and – "followed the crowd"

I do not now remember what either one said – I did

understand. That Lincoln
"Won out" on the Side of
The Republican Party - of
which my Father was an
earnest and active member - he
having taken The N.Y.
Tribune for Several years.

There were 6 of us boys,
I the fourth youngest - Four
of us Enlisted and Served
Through the War - all Coming
home without more than
Slight Wounds. - But - Dad,
all are now passed beyond
but one - younger brother and
I. I am 86 years old - I have
a good wife, a good home, -
A host of Children - grand
Children - and great Grand
Children - and am happy
Thank God for it all
I have lived a Christian
life for 64 years and

4

am not tired of it yet-
I am a Republican in
politics and an Anti-Secret-
Society Christian
With most kindly greeting
and best wishes -
yours truly -
Peter Woodring
Late of Co H 37th Wis Inf'y
1021 Randolph St -
Waterloo
Iowa

Woodruff, Mrs. Mary

Corning, N.Y.
2nd campaign

Manistique, Mich.

Manistique, Mich.
Oct. 17- 1932.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director of Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:-

I see where you are making a list of the "old timers" that personally saw Abe Lincoln.

My mother — Mrs Mary Woodruff - of Manistique - Michigan R.D. #2 saw Mr. Lincoln when he was making his second campaign for president at Corning, New York. She then lived at "Irving Center". N.Y. now called Presho.

She is 82 yrs. old. Was born in Sept. 2 1850. She lives on a farm about a mile from me and is quite active yet.

Yours Respectfully

Mrs. Alphonse Verschure

Manistique

R.D. #2 Mich.

Wright, Mrs. Belle — Galesburg, Ill. L.-D. Debate — Plymouth, Illinois

Plymouth. Ind.
Sept. 8, 32.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Sirs: I noticed your letter, recently published in our home paper concerning the oldest person in Illinois who heard or saw Lincoln.

I met Lincoln personally when he & Douglas gave their debate on Knox Campus in Galesburg. I shook hands with him & visited with him well and he replied in a few kindly words. I heard the debate that day. Of course there was an immense crowd present.

I was born Aug. 16, 1846 as you see I am 86. Suppose there are others who are older yet than I who heard & met him that day: but-feel I would like to reply to your request.

Sincerely yours.
Mrs. Belle Wright
Plymouth Ind.

LINCOLN NATIONAL
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to_____
RECD SEP 10 1932
Answered_____
LIFE INSURANCE CO.

LETTERS - W DRAWER MEETING LINCOLN